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STAT

U.S. Missile Plans Sold to East Bloc

FBI Charges Californian in Betrayal of Secrets Valuable 'Beyond Calculation'

By RONALD J. OSTROW, *Times Staff Writer*

WASHINGTON—In a major espionage case, the FBI Monday charged a Mountain View, Calif., man with selling Minuteman and ballistic missile defense secrets to Polish intelligence agents who relayed them to the Soviet KGB.

The information, allegedly sold for more than $250,000 by James Durward Harper Jr., 49, has a value "beyond calculation" to Warsaw Pact military planners, according to an Army ballistic missile expert quoted in the FBI's arrest warrant affidavit. It allegedly included, besides the Minuteman secrets, details of U.S. research on defense against ballistic missile attack.

Polish intelligence agents credited with obtaining the information from Harper were honored with a 1980 commendation from Yuri V. Andropov, then head of the KGB and now Soviet premier, the affidavit stated.

Intends to 'Cooperate'

At his arraignment in San Francisco Monday, Harper told U.S. Magistrate Owen E. Woodruff that he did not intend to hire an attorney. "My intention is to cooperate with authorities to expedite the proceedings," he said.

Woodruff ordered the balding, handcuffed suspect held without bail, with further proceedings scheduled for Wednesday. Harper was taken into custody Saturday, but the arrest warrant was sealed until his arraignment.

The 33-page FBI affidavit made public at the arraignment is an unusually detailed description of Soviet-bloc espionage techniques, ranging from circulating a "shopping list" of sought-after high-technology secrets among intelligence operatives to relying on agents in satellite nations to procure the most valued material.

At the same time, the affidavit to justify an arrest in a largely circumstantial case lays out in equally unusual detail FBI counterintelligence methods, including capitalizing on information provided by a high-ranking officer in the SB, the Polish intelligence service, who since has defected.

The espionage conspiracy with which Harper is charged began in May, 1979, and continues to the present, according to the FBI's criminal complaint, and involved trips by Harper to Geneva, Vienna and Warsaw.

Harper, a power supply consultant for Solectron Corp. in the Silicon Valley area south of San Francisco, has never held a security clearance that would give him access to the stolen materials, the FBI said. The complaint alleged that he obtained the material from his wife, Ruby Louise Schuler, who was an executive secretary and bookkeeper for Systems Control Inc. of Palo Alto, which has had numerous contracts from the Ballistic Missile Defense Center in Huntsville, Ala.

Wife Died in June

Schuler, who died last June, suffered from cirrhosis of the liver and had an "alcohol problem," investigative sources who declined to be identified by name or agency said Monday.

Neighbors of Harper, who lived in a modest, colonial-style apartment building in a neighborhood dominated by apartments, described him as a man who kept to himself.

Sheila Bailey, a student and Silicon Valley technician who lives in the apartment above Harper's, said he was "very secretive and aloof." Like others, she recalled seeing him often in jogging clothes. "He always carried a black flight bag, which I assumed held sweat socks and running shoes," she said. "Now, I'm not so sure."

Harper is accused of conspiring with Zdzislaw Przychodzien, a Polish intelligence officer, to deliver the stolen secrets. According to the affidavit and sources close to the

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